Imperial County Economic Forecast

Imperial County is located at the extreme southeastern edge of California, adjacent to San Diego County. It is the home of the Salton Sea, the largest lake in the state. Imperial County has a population of 179,000 people and a total of 61,000 wage and salary jobs. The income per capita is $30,710 and the average salary per worker is $45,553, both of which represent the lowest levels among all Southern California counties.

Imperial County's economy is heavily agricultural. With roughly 10,200 farm workers, the county is responsible for approximately $2 billion of agricultural output per year. Its most prevalent commodities are cattle, alfalfa, wheat, and lettuce. The public sector also plays a large role in the region's economy, and with 17,700 workers, it is the county's largest employment sector. A substantial number of the government jobs in Imperial County are related to the two state correctional facilities, which employ a combined total of 2,300 staff and house 6,700 inmates.
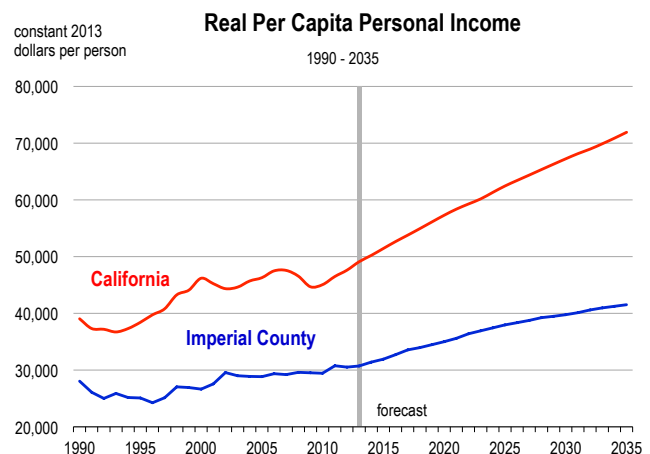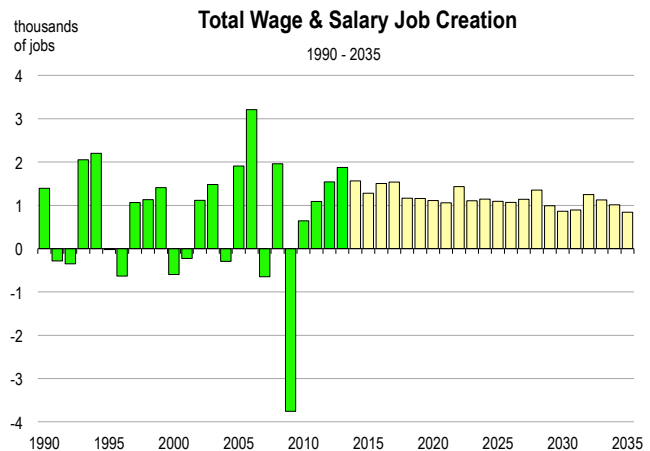
Across Southern California, employment increased by 2.7 percent in 2013. Imperial County gained 1,900 wage and salary jobs, representing a growth rate of 3.2 percent. Farm employment declined by 1.5 percent, while non-farm employment increased by 4.1 percent. Although the unemployment rate remains very high, it improved substantially, falling from 27.2 percent in 2012 to 24.5 percent in 2013.

In 2013, the largest employment gains were observed in construction (+730 jobs), education and healthcare (+670 jobs), and wholesale and retail trade (+510 jobs). The largest losses were observed in government (-220 jobs) agriculture (-150 jobs), and manufacturing (-120 jobs).

Between 2008 and 2013, the Imperial County population grew at an average rate of 1.0 percent per year. This growth was entirely due to the natural increase (new births), as overall net migration was negative.

Forecast Highlights

- Total employment is expected to increase by 2.6 percent in 2014. From 2014 to 2019, the growth rate will average 2.0 percent per year. Over the same period, agricultural employment will be relatively flat.

- Average salaries are currently well below the California state average, and will remain so over the forecast horizon. Adjusted for inflation, average salaries in Imperial County will rise by an average of 0.9 percent per year from 2014 to 2019.

- The sectors that will create the most jobs between 2014 and 2019 are education and healthcare, government, and wholesale and retail trade. Together, these industries will account for 79 percent of net job creation in the county.

Total Wage & Salary Job Creation
thousands of jobs
1990 - 2035

Real Per Capita Personal Income
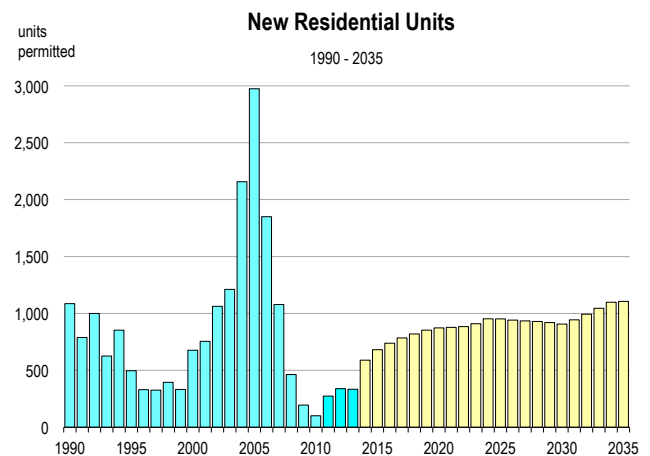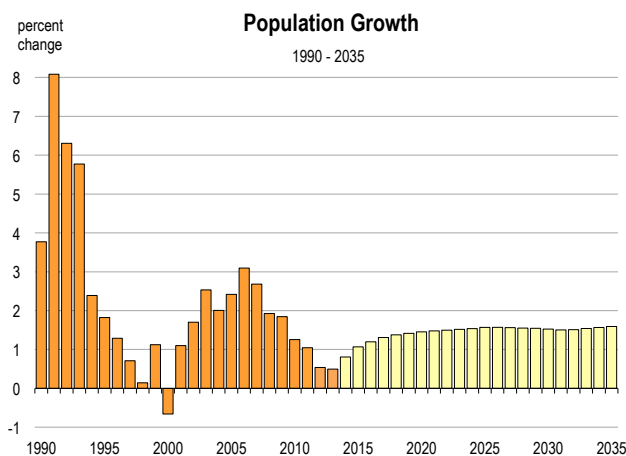constant 2013 dollars per person
1990 - 2035

- The population will continue to grow faster than the state average. Annual growth in the 2014 to 2019 period will average 1.3 percent.

- Net migration is expected to remain negative for most of the 2014-2019 period. Over this time frame, an average of 80 net migrants will leave the county each year.

- Real income per capita, adjusted for inflation, is projected to increase by 2.2 percent in 2014. Between 2014 and 2019, growth will average 1.9 percent per year.

- Total taxable sales, adjusted for inflation, are expected to increase by an average of 2.7 percent per year between 2014 and 2019.

- Industrial production is expected to increase by 7.8 percent in 2014. From 2014 to 2019, the growth rate of industrial production is expected to average 4.4 percent per year.

- Farm production is forecasted to increase by 0.5 percent per year between 2014 and 2019. The principal farm products in the county are cattle and leaf lettuce.

Imperial County Economic Forecast
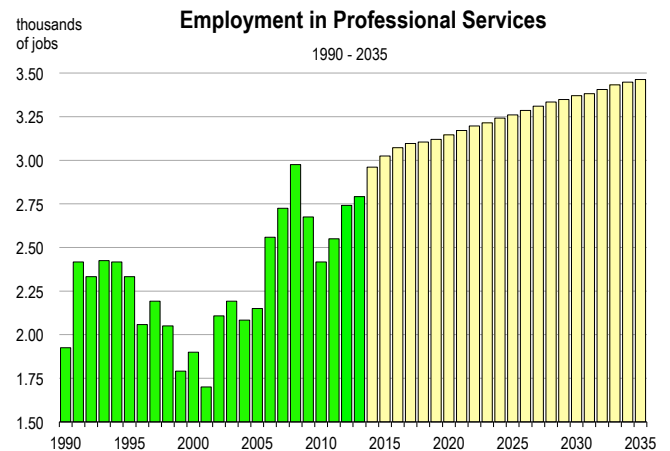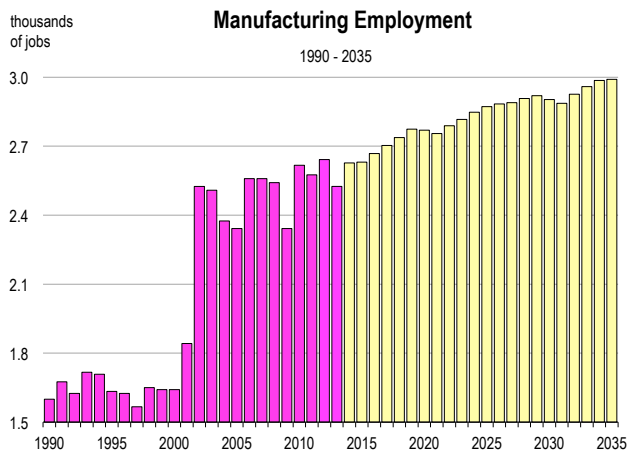## 2006-2013 History, 2014-2040 Forecast

	Population (people)	Net Migration (people)	Registered Vehicles (thousands)	Households (thousands)	New Homes Permitted (homes)	Total Taxable Sales (billions)	Personal Income (billions)	Real Per Capita Income (dollars)	Inflation Rate (% change in CPI)	Real Farm Crop Value (billions)	Real Industrial Production (billions)	Unemploy-ment Rate (percent)
2006	162,532	2,845	144.6	46.0	1,850	$2.15	$4.20	$29,351	4.3	1.55	0.71	15.4
2007	166,894	2,132	145.0	48.2	1,079	$2.25	$4.43	$29,189	3.3	1.53	0.71	18.0
2008	170,104	857	147.7	48.5	464	$2.18	$4.73	$29,589	3.5	1.79	0.77	22.3
2009	173,241	847	151.5	49.0	195	$1.77	$4.77	$29,513	-0.8	1.56	0.75	27.8
2010	175,418	4	155.8	49.1	102	$1.97	$4.87	$29,429	1.2	1.69	0.79	28.9
2011	177,252	-294	157.3	49.2	274	$2.18	$5.29	$30,755	2.7	2.03	0.76	28.8
2012	178,204	-1,135	160.2	49.3	339	$2.36	$5.38	$30,508	2.0	1.97	0.82	27.2
2013	179,086	-1,207	166.4	49.6	334	$2.47	$5.50	$30,710	1.1	2.00	0.84	24.5
2014	180,531	-693	168.1	49.9	590	$2.60	$5.76	$31,393	1.6	2.01	0.90	22.0
2015	182,458	-328	171.4	50.4	682	$2.73	$6.04	$31,924	2.1	1.98	0.95	19.9
2016	184,643	-165	175.2	51.0	739	$2.88	$6.40	$32,733	2.0	2.00	0.99	17.9
2017	187,058	-47	179.0	51.7	785	$3.00	$6.72	$33,548	1.2	2.01	1.03	16.5
2018	189,633	42	182.0	52.5	820	$3.10	$6.98	$33,975	1.1	2.04	1.07	15.7
2019	192,317	100	185.0	53.3	853	$3.21	$7.27	$34,488	1.2	2.06	1.12	15.3
2020	195,112	151	188.0	54.1	873	$3.31	$7.57	$34,999	1.2	2.04	1.16	15.0
2021	197,997	180	191.1	55.0	878	$3.41	$7.92	$35,609	1.3	2.01	1.20	15.0
2022	200,960	187	194.4	55.8	885	$3.52	$8.33	$36,389	1.4	2.04	1.25	14.9
2023	204,010	199	197.3	56.7	910	$3.62	$8.69	$36,907	1.3	2.06	1.31	14.8
2024	207,145	230	200.2	57.6	953	$3.73	$9.07	$37,457	1.3	2.09	1.36	14.7
2025	210,394	283	202.9	58.5	952	$3.83	$9.46	$37,966	1.3	2.11	1.41	14.7
2026	213,697	281	205.5	59.5	942	$3.94	$9.84	$38,364	1.3	2.11	1.46	14.8
2027	217,035	267	208.0	60.4	935	$4.06	$10.23	$38,765	1.3	2.11	1.52	14.8
2028	220,401	259	210.6	61.3	930	$4.19	$10.65	$39,230	1.3	2.13	1.58	14.7
2029	223,806	255	212.9	62.2	920	$4.31	$11.04	$39,499	1.3	2.13	1.65	14.8
2030	227,218	241	215.1	63.1	907	$4.44	$11.43	$39,779	1.3	2.11	1.70	14.8
2031	230,635	224	217.3	64.0	944	$4.59	$11.86	$40,131	1.3	2.08	1.76	14.8
2032	234,117	269	219.8	64.9	993	$4.76	$12.34	$40,594	1.3	2.12	1.85	14.8
2033	237,723	331	222.0	65.9	1,046	$4.94	$12.81	$40,944	1.3	2.16	1.93	14.8
2034	241,447	393	224.2	66.9	1,099	$5.11	$13.27	$41,243	1.3	2.19	2.01	14.8
2035	245,290	455	226.3	68.0	1,106	$5.29	$13.75	$41,506	1.3	2.19	2.08	14.9
2036	249,170	461	228.5	69.1	1,100	$5.47	$14.26	$41,815	1.3	2.24	2.18	15.0
2037	253,073	452	230.4	70.1	1,089	$5.64	$14.74	$42,022	1.3	2.26	2.27	15.1
2038	256,980	434	232.2	71.2	1,080	$5.81	$15.25	$42,233	1.3	2.22	2.33	15.2
2039	260,896	419	234.2	72.3	1,081	$5.99	$15.81	$42,571	1.3	2.25	2.43	15.3
2040	264,848	419	236.0	73.3	1,083	$6.16	$16.37	$42,848	1.3	2.27	2.56	15.4

Population Growth
percent change
1990 - 2035

New Residential Units
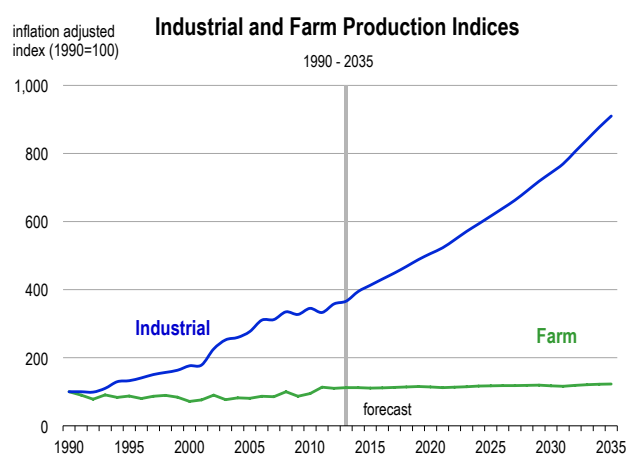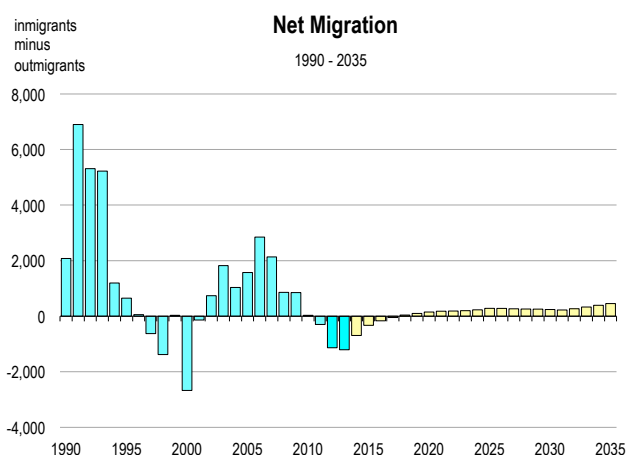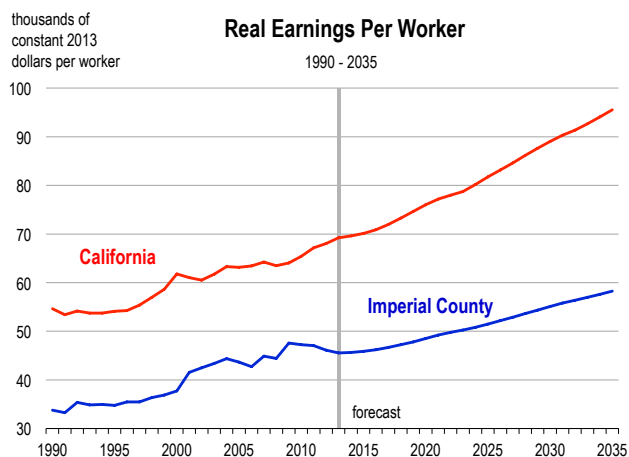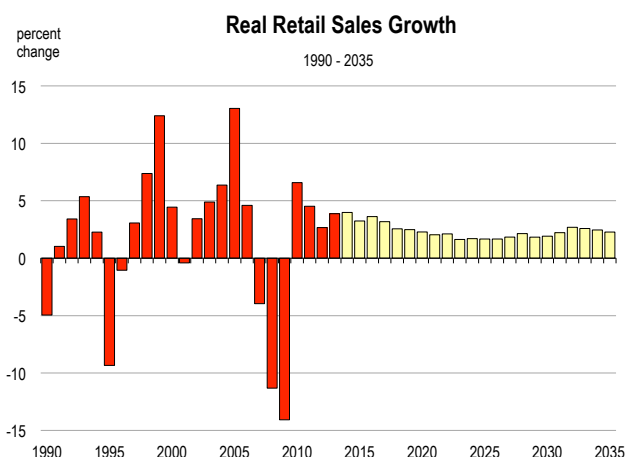units permitted
1990 - 2035

Imperial County Employment Forecast
2006-2013 History, 2014-2040 Forecast

	Total Wage & Salary	Farm	Construction	Manufac-turing	Transportation & Utilities	Wholesale & Retail Trade	Financial Activities	Professional Services	Information	Health & Education	Leisure	Government
	--employment (thousands of jobs)--											
2006	58.6	11.5	2.0	2.6	1.8	9.4	1.4	2.6	0.4	5.3	3.3	17.4
2007	57.9	9.7	1.8	2.6	1.8	9.4	1.4	2.7	0.4	5.5	3.5	18.1
2008	59.9	10.3	1.6	2.5	1.8	9.5	1.3	3.0	0.4	6.4	3.6	18.5
2009	56.1	7.6	1.3	2.3	1.8	8.6	1.3	2.7	0.4	7.1	3.4	18.8
2010	56.8	9.1	1.2	2.6	1.8	8.6	1.3	2.4	0.4	6.8	3.3	18.5
2011	57.9	10.4	1.4	2.6	1.8	8.7	1.3	2.6	0.4	6.6	3.4	18.2
2012	59.4	10.3	1.5	2.6	1.8	9.4	1.3	2.7	0.4	6.8	3.6	17.9
2013	61.3	10.2	2.3	2.5	2.0	9.9	1.4	2.8	0.3	7.5	3.9	17.7
2014	62.9	10.2	2.3	2.6	2.1	10.1	1.4	3.0	0.3	7.8	3.9	18.3
2015	64.1	10.1	2.3	2.6	2.2	10.2	1.4	3.0	0.3	8.3	4.0	18.7
2016	65.6	10.1	2.4	2.7	2.2	10.4	1.4	3.1	0.3	9.0	4.1	19.0
2017	67.2	10.2	2.4	2.7	2.3	10.5	1.4	3.1	0.3	9.7	4.2	19.4
2018	68.3	10.3	2.4	2.7	2.4	10.7	1.4	3.1	0.3	10.2	4.2	19.7
2019	69.5	10.4	2.4	2.8	2.4	10.8	1.4	3.1	0.3	10.7	4.3	19.9
2020	70.6	10.3	2.4	2.8	2.5	10.9	1.4	3.1	0.3	11.3	4.3	20.3
2021	71.7	10.1	2.4	2.8	2.5	10.9	1.4	3.2	0.3	11.9	4.3	20.7
2022	73.1	10.3	2.4	2.8	2.6	11.0	1.4	3.2	0.3	12.6	4.3	21.0
2023	74.2	10.3	2.4	2.8	2.7	11.1	1.4	3.2	0.3	13.1	4.4	21.3
2024	75.4	10.4	2.4	2.8	2.8	11.2	1.4	3.2	0.3	13.6	4.4	21.6
2025	76.4	10.5	2.4	2.9	2.8	11.2	1.4	3.3	0.3	14.1	4.4	21.9
2026	77.5	10.5	2.4	2.9	2.9	11.3	1.4	3.3	0.3	14.6	4.4	22.3
2027	78.7	10.5	2.4	2.9	2.9	11.4	1.4	3.3	0.3	15.2	4.4	22.6
2028	80.0	10.5	2.4	2.9	3.0	11.5	1.4	3.3	0.3	15.8	4.4	23.1
2029	81.0	10.5	2.4	2.9	3.1	11.6	1.4	3.3	0.3	16.3	4.4	23.4
2030	81.9	10.4	2.4	2.9	3.1	11.6	1.4	3.4	0.4	16.8	4.4	23.7
2031	82.8	10.3	2.4	2.9	3.2	11.7	1.4	3.4	0.4	17.3	4.5	24.0
2032	84.0	10.5	2.4	2.9	3.3	11.9	1.4	3.4	0.4	17.8	4.5	24.2
2033	85.1	10.7	2.4	3.0	3.3	12.0	1.4	3.4	0.4	18.2	4.5	24.5
2034	86.1	10.7	2.4	3.0	3.4	12.1	1.4	3.4	0.4	18.7	4.5	24.7
2035	87.0	10.7	2.4	3.0	3.5	12.2	1.4	3.5	0.4	19.1	4.5	24.9
2036	88.0	10.9	2.4	3.0	3.5	12.3	1.4	3.5	0.4	19.5	4.5	25.1
2037	88.7	10.9	2.4	3.1	3.6	12.3	1.4	3.5	0.4	19.8	4.5	25.2
2038	89.1	10.8	2.4	3.0	3.7	12.4	1.4	3.5	0.4	20.2	4.5	25.3
2039	89.8	10.9	2.4	3.0	3.7	12.5	1.4	3.5	0.4	20.4	4.5	25.5
2040	90.5	11.0	2.4	3.1	3.8	12.6	1.4	3.5	0.4	20.7	4.5	25.5

thousands of jobs

Manufacturing Employment

1990 - 2035

thousands of jobs

Employment in Professional Services

1990 - 2035

Real Retail Sales Growth

percent change

1990 - 2035

Real Earnings Per Worker

thousands of constant 2013 dollars per worker

1990 - 2035

California

Imperial County

forecast

Net Migration

inmigrants minus outmigrants

1990 - 2035

Industrial and Farm Production Indices

inflation adjusted index (1990=100)

1990 - 2035

Industrial

Farm

forecast

County Economic and Demographic Indicators

Projected Economic Growth (2014-2019)

Expected retail sales growth:	16.0%
Expected job growth:	10.6%
Fastest growing jobs sector:	Education and Healthcare
Expected personal income growth:	17.0%

Expected population growth:	6.5%
Net migration to account for:	0%
Expected growth in number of vehicles:	10.1%

Demographics (2014)

Unemployment rate (April 2014):	21.6%
County rank* in California (58 counties):	58th
Working age (16-64) population:	63.7%

Population with B.A. or higher:	13.4%
Median home selling price (2013):	$143,500
Median household income:	$39,039

Quality of Life

Violent crime rate (2012):	276 per 100,000 persons
County rank* in California (58 counties):	16th
Average commute time to work (2014):	24.4 minutes

High School drop out rate (2012):	10.8%
Households at/below poverty line (2014):	22.2%

* The county ranked 1st corresponds to the lowest rate in California